



KHA's Current Report
September 13, 2024

President's Perspective – KHA Board Elections and Meeting Coincide with KHA Convention

The 2024 Kansas Hospital Association's Annual Convention and Trade Show concluded last week and was filled with excitement, great speakers and plenty of networking. I want to thank the KHA Convention Planning Committee for their guidance on this year's convention and give a huge shoutout to Hayley Finch-Genschorck for her outstanding leadership in ensuring the KHA Convention was a success. We appreciate the nearly 1,100 attendees, sponsors and exhibitors who joined us in Overland Park. I also want to congratulate all our award recipients and those nominated. Thank you for your leadership and service.

During the convention's opening ceremonies, KHA Board Chair Bobby Olm-Shipman led the KHA Annual Meeting. During that meeting, the membership approved the following slate of officers to the KHA Board of Directors for 2025. George Stover, Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons, Board Chair; Tammy Peterman, The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City, Chair-Elect; Val Gleason, NMC Health, Newton, Treasurer; and Bobby Olm-Shipman, Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park, Past Chair. The following individuals were also approved as new or re-appointed directors on the board starting in January 2025: Mark Brady, MD, Overland Park; Connie Chavez, trustee, Hodgeman County Health Center, Jetmore; Kiley Floyd, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca; Joel Phelps, Salina Regional Health Center, Salina; and Karen Orr, Providence Medical Center, Kansas City.

Before the convention's kick-off, the KHA Board of Directors met in person to discuss several emerging and pertinent topics, including the latest federal and state advocacy initiatives. On the state level, the KHA Board had an opportunity to discuss the recent Kansas primary elections and weigh in on legislative priorities for the 2025 Kansas legislative session. The legislative agenda will likely revolve around three core areas: finance, workforce and patient care. KHA staff will gather additional feedback on the policy proposals from the membership during the upcoming round of district meetings. The KHA Board also received an update regarding the ongoing 340B lawsuits in Kansas. It approved a policy recommendation that increases the Medicaid Provider Assessment to six percent as outlined by the Kansas Legislature.

On the federal level, Congress continues to wrestle with several outstanding issues, including the budget for the fiscal year 2025. The House Appropriations Committee has reported all 12 of its annual appropriations bills to the full House for consideration, and half have been passed by the House and sent to the Senate. A continuing resolution appears more likely as we near the Sept. 30 deadline. Additional highlighted federal issues included streamlining prior authorization requirements, publicizing the challenges of the Medicare Advantage program and protecting the 340B Program.

Additional highlights of the September board meeting are bulleted below:

- Recognized Lorin Haas, a trustee at Pratt Regional Medical Center, Pratt, for his service on the KHA Board
- Approved the KHA associate membership applications for Ethos Medical Staffing
- Appointed James Longabaugh, DO, CEO at Sabetha Community Hospital, Sabetha, to serve a three-year term on the Healthworks Board of Directors
- Approved the KHA finance and investment report
- Reviewed the draft 2025-2027 KHA Strategic Plan that will now be presented at the upcoming KHA District Meetings for additional input
- Reviewed the latest information regarding the KHA Payor Scorecard and financial studies
- Approved a public communication strategy for several important initiatives, including Medicare Advantage
- Reviewed the latest workforce strategic initiatives developed by KHA staff to address health care workforce supply and capacity issues
- Highlighted the latest activities surrounding the KHA Strategic Aim to "improve Kansas' statewide health ranking, with a focus on preventative health services"
- Provided a status update on the fundraising progress of the KHA-Political Advocacy Committee

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need assistance with any matters affecting your hospital. Your team at KHA is readily available to help.

--Chad Austin

Hospital Board Leaders' Program – Oct. 22, Nov. 5 and Nov. 19

The Kansas Hospital Association and governWell are pleased to offer KHA members a program designed for new board chairs, chair-elects or vice chairs. Learn about the board chair's leadership role, building purposeful agendas, facilitation and executive sessions, the Open Meetings Act, quality oversight, the board chair/CEO relationship, board conduct, board orientation, learning and development and board self-assessment.

This virtual program will include three 90-minute Zoom sessions and an optional individual coaching session. Attendance will be limited to 50 trustees. Breakout rooms will be used to connect with other trustees in their locations and similar facilities.

This program is for board chairs, chair-elects, vice chairs and board members in line to be chair. Session resources will be shared with the board member's CEO/administrator since they cannot attend the program.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Agenda Set for 2024 KHA Fall District Meetings

KHA District Meetings provide members with timely information and are essential in helping KHA learn about your top issues. We encourage CEOs, CFOs, HR executives, trustees and senior staff to join us. We want to have interactive conversations, so invite key staff working or interested in the topic areas below.

- Hospitals' Financial Health
- Public Education Campaigns - Medicare Advantage, 340B Program and Hospitals' Financial Health Study
- Making an Impact on Retention and Recruitment
- Member Discussion on KHA 2025-2027 Strategic Planning
- Member Discussion - How are you using AI?
- State and Federal Advocacy (elections, 340B litigation, KHA-PAC)
- KHSC and APS Spotlight Services
- Member Discussion on Regional and State Resources and Strategies

District	Date	Location	City
South Central	Oct. 2	Hutchinson Regional Medical Center	Hutchinson
Northeast	Oct. 3	Saint Luke's South Hospital	Overland Park
Southeast	Oct. 4	Labette Health	Parsons
North Central	Oct. 8	Ellsworth County Medical Center	Ellsworth
Southwest	Oct. 10	Kearny County Hospital	Lakin
Northwest	Oct. 11	HaysMed	Hays



We look forward to networking with you in October. Thanks to our sponsors, these meetings are provided at no charge: Diamond-Level: APS, KAMMCO and KHSC; Platinum-Level: Qualivis.

--Cindy Samuelson

Two Opportunities to Register for the Health Care Preceptor Academy

Register now and plan to attend one of the Health Care Preceptor Academies this fall. The Health Care Preceptor Academy is designed to engage and grow current and future preceptors with key education tools and strategies to foster a strong preceptor/orientee relationship. This interactive program provides information and practical tools to improve preceptor abilities.

Health Care Preceptor Academy Locations and Dates:

- [Sept. 24 – St. Catherine Hospital-Garden City, Garden City](#)
- [Nov. 12– Stormont Vail Health, Topeka](#)

While the academy is offered two times for convenience, each session covers the same material. Participation will be limited to 25 individuals per class. Enrollment will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received before your registration can be processed. You will receive an email from KHA confirming your registration.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Foundations of Leadership Training for KHA Member Hospitals – Oct. 24-25

Plan to join Kansas Hospital Association staff on Oct. 24-25 for a custom Foundations of Leadership Program designed exclusively for KHA participants. This training is designed for a hospital leadership team – administrative, physician and clinical – to attend together. Individual participants are also welcome to attend.

KLC faculty will provide this 1.5-day in-person custom leadership training program that introduces the KLC framework and highlights competencies and principles such as the difference between technical problems and adaptive challenges, the distinction between leadership and authority, making tough interpretations, working across factions, asking powerful questions, managing the heat in any system, creating a trustworthy process and making leadership less risky for others. These concepts will be taught within the context of a specific case or challenge within health care, developed by selected stakeholders before the program with guidance from the KLC teacher. The case will anchor the conversations and provide participants with live opportunities throughout the program to apply the KLC leadership framework to the case study.

By the end of this program, participants will be able to:

- Shift from a primarily technical mindset to a technical and adaptive mindset
- Use KLC's leadership framework to diagnose the gap between concerns and aspirations
- Apply KLC's adaptive skills and tools to a real-world challenge(s)
- Help individuals see new opportunities, seize these opportunities and solve problems faster



Click to Register

CONTACT US

--Jennifer Findley

Sunflower Chapter HFMA Chagemaster Workshop

The [Sunflower \(Kansas\) Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association](#) invites you to the Oct. 16-18 workshop at the Hilton Garden Inn & Convention Center in Salina. This is an in-person event only.

Each session is 1.5 days.

The CAH session will be on Oct. 16 (a full day) and Oct. 17 (a half-day morning). Laura Ashmore, with Great Plains Health Alliance, will present for Critical Access Hospitals.

Tammy Moss, with Administrative Consultant Service, will present the prospective payment system session on Oct. 17 (a half-day afternoon) and Oct. 18 (a full day).

The registration fees are \$300 for the first registrant and \$75 for each additional registrant from the same facility.

Click to View Agenda

Click to View Event Summary

Click to Register

--Dee Lewis

J&J Announces New 340B Rebate Model

Johnson&Johnson recently [announced](#) that disproportionate share hospitals participating in 340B will no longer receive upfront 340B discounts on two significant drugs, Stelara and Xarelto. Beginning Oct. 15, J&J will make the 340B discount on these two drugs available through a rebate. DSH-covered entities must purchase Stelara and Xarelto through wholesalers at a commercial price. Following the administration of the drugs, they may submit rebate claim data to J&J through a new platform. Since this announcement, the Health Resources and Services Administration has [stated](#) that the rebate model is inconsistent with the 340B statute.

--Karen Braman

Healthy Aging – Medicare Covered Services

September is [Healthy Aging Month](#) and a good time to encourage your patients to use Medicare services to maintain a healthy lifestyle, manage chronic conditions and stay healthy and independent for as long as possible. For more information, see [Medicare-covered services appropriate to recommend for healthy aging](#).

--Karen Braman

Nursing Workforce Center Inaugural Report

Last week, the Kansas Nursing Workforce Center released the inaugural edition of the State of Nursing in Kansas report.

This report consolidates data from sources into visuals to help stakeholders make better decisions about the nursing workforce. It comprises five main sections: introductory information, RNs, LPNs, original research, analysis and additional information.

Key takeaways include:

- Kansas RNs are 91.8 percent female, and the median age is 51, while LPNs are 90.9 percent female, and the median age is 50.
- The population of Kansas is growing more diverse, but Kansas RNs remain primarily white and female.
- Eighty-five percent of Kansas-licensed RNs and LPNs are actively employed in nursing.
- Twenty-nine percent of Kansas RNs and 23 percent of LPNs are expected to retire in the next five years.
- Enrollment in nursing education programs is down 39 percent over the last 10 years.
- Thirty-six percent of Kansas RNs work more than 40 hours per week, higher than the national sample.

[View the report here.](#)

--Jaron Caffrey

Healthworks Grants at Glance September Newsletter Now Available

The September edition of [Grants at a Glance](#), a monthly newsletter highlighting potential grant opportunities, is now available. Healthworks, in partnership with Affiliated Enterprise Solutions, offers the newsletter and webinars to enhance grant writing skills and individual consulting options.

Please contact [Susan Pattie](#) at Healthworks at (785) 233-7436 if you have any questions.

--Jennifer Findley

2024 KPQC Fall Conference – Register Now!

Registration for the 2024 Fall Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative Conference is open. The virtual conference is from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Oct. 22.

[Click to Register](#)

For questions, please contact the Fourth Trimester Co-Coordinators, [Terrah Stroda](#) or [Kari Smith](#).

--Karen Braman

CMS Issues Clarification on Processing SDOH Risk Assessment as Part of Annual Wellness Visit

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services clarified in the [Aug. 15 MLN Matters](#) that Medicare Administrative Contractors will process G0136 using the Physician Fee Schedule. CMS advises that hospitals, physicians and other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors for services provided to Medicare patients to make sure that billing staff know the following:

- A social determinants of health risk assessment is now an optional annual wellness visit element
- The eligibility and billing requirements for doing the SDOH as part of the AWW

In the CY 2024 Physician Fee Schedule final rule, CMS established HCPCS code G0136, Administration of a standardized, evidence-based SDOH risk assessment tool, 5-15 minutes, not more often than every six months. For detailed information on appropriate billing for G0136, consult the [MLN Matters Number 13486](#).

--Karen Braman

APS Welcomes New Boston Creative Group, LLC, to Its Roster of Services Provided to Hospitals

A new [APS-approved vendor](#) with extensive insight into the challenges facing rural health care organizations is now available to provide marketing and communications services to Missouri and Kansas hospitals.

[New Boston Creative Group, LLC](#), a Manhattan, KS-based firm established in 2006, is a Women's Business Enterprise providing marketing strategy, web design, video production, digital marketing, graphic design, writing and editing and consulting services. It is a dedicated health care practice led by an experienced rural health care marketing professional.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.

--Dennis George

Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis Cases Continue to Rise in Kansas and Nationally

Syphilis and congenital syphilis are on the rise across the nation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [2022 STI Surveillance Report](#), syphilis cases have risen more than 78 percent nationally over the past five years. The CDC's report showed that there were 347 cases of primary and secondary and 13 cases of congenital syphilis in Kansas in 2022.

Because of the rapidly rising cases of congenital syphilis across the country, the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends](#) testing pregnant women for syphilis three times during pregnancy: at the first prenatal visit, third trimester and at birth. Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A) is the [current recommended treatment](#) for syphilis for "All ages, All stages."

Pfizer issued a June 10 update stating they currently have a supply of 2.4 million Units/4 milliliters of Bicillin L-A. If there is a sufficient supply, it should be used for all appropriate patients, per the [CDC's standard guidance](#).

Several penicillin G products are on the [ASHP's Drug Shortages List](#). Anyone having issues ordering penicillin G is encouraged to report those issues to the CDC at STDshortages@cdc.gov. See [Clinical Reminders during Bicillin L-A Shortage](#) for more information. Health and Human Services Region 7 has provided [a resource for considerations](#) regarding implementing point-of-care testing for syphilis.

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

OSHA Plans to Propose Workplace Violence Prevention Standards

OSHA [signaled](#) its intent to publish proposed workplace violence prevention standards in December 2024. A 60-day comment period will follow publication.

CMS Releases SNF, IRF and LTCH Quality Reporting Information

Skilled nursing facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities and long-term care hospitals must submit quality information to satisfy each quality reporting program outlined below. CMS released Quality Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manuals, version 6.0, for these quality programs. The following links contain details about the updates to each program.

SNF Quality Reporting Program

- [Overview](#)
- [User's Manual](#)
- [Change Table](#)

IRF Quality Reporting Program

- [Overview](#)
- [User's Manual](#)
- [Change Table](#)

LTCH Quality Reporting Program

- [Overview](#)
- [User's Manual](#)
- [Change Table](#)

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the following [updates](#) to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

- [COVID-19: Updated Vaccines for 2024–2025 Season](#)
- [Rural Emergency Hospital Provisions, Conversion Process, & Conditions of Participation: Revised Guidance](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(Sept. 6, 2024\)](#)
- [Organizational Providers: Do You Need to Revalidate Your Enrollment Record Soon?](#)
- [Prostate Cancer: Talk to Your Patients about Screening](#)
- [Advance Health Equity During National Sickle Cell Awareness Month](#)

Before You Go ...

- Applications are currently being accepted for the [Health Professional Loan Repayment Program](#). This funding is for educational loan repayment to eligible health care, mental health and public health professionals in exchange for service in Missouri areas with a shortage of health professionals. Recipients must put these funds toward their educational debt.

- A [study](#) by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, looks at how adolescent substance use interferes with brain development and increases the risk of addiction. The study found that teens who begin using substances at ages 13-14 are at higher risk of developing a substance use disorder.
- The National Healthcare Safety Network announced a new [webpage](#) for information regarding Hospital Respiratory Data reporting requirements, beginning Friday, Nov. 1. The webpage contains several resources to prepare hospitals for the new reporting requirements. It will be updated with additional information, resources and training opportunities in the coming weeks.